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Statement from U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick on Transforming the U.S. AI Safety Institute into the Pro-Innovation, Pro-Science U.S. Center for AI Standards and Innovation



Artificial Intelligence

Under the direction of President Trump, Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick announced his plans to reform the agency formerly known as the U.S. AI Safety Institute into the Center for AI Standards and Innovation (CAISI).

AI holds great potential for transformational advances that will enhance U.S. economic and national security. This change will ensure Commerce uses its vast scientific and industrial expertise to evaluate and understand the capabilities of these rapidly developing systems and identify vulnerabilities and threats within systems developed in the U.S. and abroad.

“For far too long, censorship and regulations have been used under the guise of national security. Innovators will no longer be limited by these standards. CAISI will evaluate and enhance U.S. innovation of these rapidly developing commercial AI systems while ensuring they remain secure to our national security standards,” said Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick.

CAISI will serve as industry’s primary point of contact within the U.S. Government to facilitate testing and collaborative research related to harnessing and securing the potential of commercial AI systems. To that end, CAISI will:

- Work with NIST organizations to develop guidelines and best practices to measure and improve the security of AI systems, and work with the NIST Information Technology Laboratory and other NIST organizations to assist industry to develop voluntary standards.
- Establish voluntary agreements with private sector AI developers and evaluators, and lead unclassified evaluations of AI capabilities that may pose risks to national security. In conducting these evaluations, CAISI will consider the potential for threats to national security, including cybersecurity, biotechnology, biodefense, bioterrorism, biopiracy, biosecurity, and chemical weapons.
- Lead efforts to identify and address vulnerabilities and threats posed by commercial AI systems, and adversary AI systems, the adoption of which could pose a risk to national security.
- Lead efforts to identify and address vulnerabilities and threats posed by commercial AI systems, the adoption of which could pose a risk to national security, including the possibility of backdoors and other covert, malicious activities.
- Coordinate with the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Office of Science and Technology, and other federal agencies to develop and implement AI security methods, as well as conduct evaluations and assessments.
- Represent U.S. interests internationally to guard against burdensome and unnecessary regulation of American technologies by foreign governments and collaborate with the NIST Information Technology Laboratory to ensure US dominance of international AI standards.

CAISI will continue to operate within NIST and regularly collaborate and coordinate with other organizations within NIST, including the Information Technology Laboratory, as well as other bureaus within the Department of Commerce, including BIS.

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